

animals including buffaloes and elephants; hence farms with plenty of *spekboom* need not fear an ordinary drought.

"Providence meant to spoil our farmers in placing the *spekboom* on the hills of the Karoo," wrote MacOwan in one of his articles on the fodder plants of the country. (Adapted from Marloth, *The Flora of South Africa*, vol. 1, p. 209.)

"The yearly average rainfall of the region in which the *spekboom* thrives is 18 3/4 inches and the rainiest months (November, December and January), are the hottest ones, the temperature reaching 108° F. During these months the rainfall averages 2 inches. In the winter months the rainfall is between .35 and .54 inches and the temperature is sometimes as low as 21° F. The plant has been successfully introduced into America and small trees of it are now growing in San Diego and Santa Barbara, California." (Fairchild.)

Ribes lobbii (Grossulariaceae), 48511-15. **Gooseberry.** From near Castle Rock, Wash. Seeds collected by Dr. David Fairchild. "The largest wild gooseberry I have ever seen. The fruits, some of them three-fourths of an inch in diameter, were attached by a very slender pedicel, and when I touched them they dropped into my hands. They were covered with flat-topped glandular hairs which made them slightly sticky to the touch and they had an odor reminding me of that exhaled by the leaves of *Rosa xanthina*. A farmer whom we met on the road declared that he could tell when he was near bushes of this species of gooseberry by the odor. The entire skin, which is claret-red when the fruit is ripe, peels off easily, exposing a whitish tissue inside of which is the characteristic gooseberry flesh containing a few small seeds. The flavor is extremely mild, not sour, but sweetish and rather lacking in character; capable, possibly, of being improved through breeding by the addition of that tartness so characteristic of our eastern wild gooseberry. The seedlings from this particular specimen may inherit the unusual size and so be of value in breeding experiments." (Fairchild.)

Notes on Behavior of Previous Introductions.

A letter received October 15, 1919, from Mr. B. Kouwenhoven, Edmonds, Wash., states the following: "*Aesculus wilsonii*, S. P. I. No. 40037, is a beautiful ornamental tree with graceful leaves, now a gorgeous mixture of orange, bronze, green and red, with purple ribs."